

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Health & Human Services

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Legislative Conference Room, Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 8:30 AM.

Present: Mr. William Standinger	Chair of the Committee
Mr. Tracy Monell	Legislator
Mr. Dennis Mullen	Legislator
Mr. Ray Bunce	Legislator
Ms. Lori Morgan	Director of Community Services
Mr. Chris Korba	Director of Administrative Services (MH)
Mr. Shawn Yetter	Commissioner of Social Services
Ms. Mickelle Andrews	Director of Administrative Services (DSS)
Ms. Heather Vroman	Public Health Director
Mr. Denis McCann	Director of Administrative Services (PH)

Guests:	Mr. Jackson Bailey	County Administrator
	Ms. Elizabeth Myers	Deputy Commissioner (DSS)
	Ms. Cathy Haskell	Legislative Clerk
	Mr. Peter DeWind	County Attorney
	Ms. Marita Florini	Newark Valley Resident

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the February 4, 2025 HHS Committee minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Monell. Seconded by Legislator Bunce. Motion Carried.

MENTAL HYGIENE

1. Financial

- Mr. Chris Korba noted that the 2024 budget accruals have not been finished yet. There is additional Fee-For-Service revenue that will be added to the 2024 budget. He expects to have a return to local share. The 2025 budget is showing nothing unexpected.

2. Old Business

- Criminal Psych – No invoices have been received. A 730 exam was just completed, and the person was found to be incompetent so there may be invoices coming.
- Remote Work Report – Ms. Morgan shared that 14 workers are approved for remote work. There is no set schedule. The school-based Social Workers can work remote when schools are closed to get auditing done. Ms. Morgan feels this is a perk for employees.

3. New Business

- None

4. Personnel

- Janielle Williams, Sr. CSW promoted to Supervising CSW on 1/27/25

- Amy Joyce, Records Management Technician promoted to CSW on 2/24/25
 - Kelly Polidori, CSW started 2/24/25 (Waverly office)
 - Amy Coy, Sr. CSW starting 3/24/25 (Waverly office)
5. Resolutions – Legislators approved resolutions to move forward
- Create & Fill Permanent, Full-Time Clinical Social Worker Position (Partnering with DSS & located at the CAC) The first two years will be funded through Opioid Settlement Funds.
 - Abolish Medical Director, Transfer Funds & Modify Budget (Modifying the existing contract with Fairview Recovery Services)
6. Proclamations
- None

PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Financial
- Mr. Denis McCann reported that he is still waiting on some 2024 accruals. He expects to have a return to local share of at least \$298,000. There is nothing unexpected in the 2025 budget.
2. Old Business
- Remote Work Update – Ms. Vroman shared that 23 staff members are approved for remote work with several approved for two days/week, and some one day. However, not all who are approved do it every week, or for a full two days. She feels it is going well and is a nice perk for employees. They have their own internal reporting documentation.
3. New Business
- Agency Report for February 2025 forwarded to committee. Ms. Vroman shared all Environmental Health permit applications have been updated and are available on-line. They continue to work on the process of going electronic with all their PH applications and forms to allow for easier access for the public.
 - PH Director & Deputy Director met with Tioga County Veterans' staff to discuss a special dental program for TC veterans.
4. Personnel
- None
5. Resolutions – Legislators approved resolutions to move forward
- Create and Fill Temporary, Full-Time Public Health Educator (Seasonal) Position
 - Create and Fill One (1) Full-Time Public Health Project Coordinator and Abolish One (1) Local Coordinator and Authorize Salary Above CSEA Base
 - Appropriation of Funds (Deferred revenue appropriated for Safety on Mobile Dental Van)
6. Proclamations
- Public Health Week (repeat)

SOCIAL SERVICES

1. Financial

- Ms. Mickelle Andrews reported that there are still transactions to be completed with the 2024 budget. Right now, the return to local share is \$460,000. The 2025 budget is tracking well except for Foster Care is running slightly high.

2. Old Business

- Remote Work Update – Commissioner Yetter shared that 22 staff members are approved. The majority being Caseworkers working remote one day a week; there are 3 employees that work remote two days a week. He feels it is a positive perk for employees and helps with retention.

3. New Business

- Caseloads – See Caseload Summary
During February, Cash Assistance increased 4 cases, with Family Assistance decreasing 2 cases and Safety Net increasing 6 cases.
MA-Only increased 17 cases.
MA-SSI decreased 8 cases.
Total Individuals on Medicaid increased 8 to 3,451
SNAP decreased 15 cases.
Day Care increased 6 cases.
- Tioga Career Center report is attached. The TC unemployment number went down a point and remains lower than the state & national numbers.

4. Personnel Changes

- Alissa Benjamin, Caseworker, resigned effective 2/7/25
- Jared Giannicchi promoted to Senior Caseworker effective 2/10/25
- Grace-Anne Hovermale, Caseworker, hired effective 2/10/25
- There are currently 3 Caseworker vacancies and some Examiner vacancies.
Recruitment is continuing.

5. Resolutions – Legislators approved resolutions to move forward

- Authorize Contract with Liberty Resources (The services are geared toward youth with substance abuse, behavior issues, JDs, and school truancy. The MST Therapy Services are in-home several times a week with supervision. They are intensive and short term)
- Appropriation of Funds (Youth Bureau)
- Appropriation of Funds and Amend 2025 Budget (VOCA) This will assist in operations of CAC
- Appropriation of Funds and Amend 2025 Budget (AIPP)
- Authorize Two (2) Position Reclassifications (Personnel approved as the result of a desk audit)
- Create and Fill Full-Time Senior Clinical Social Worker Position (CAC) This is in collaboration with Mental Hygiene. Commissioner Yetter expressed his appreciation to Ms. Morgan.

6. Proclamations

- None

ADJOURNED:

Health & Human Services Committee adjourned at 8:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail V. Perdue

Executive Secretary, Social Services